

Jessie has been teaching for 10 years, the last 5 serving at Tyrone Middle School. She has taught both math and science, most recently teaching the sixth grade. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Grove City College in 2008 and a master's degree in instructional leadership from Robert Morris University in 2013.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Jessie for the commitment she has made to her students. I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA CHILDS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Rebecca Childs, the Levy County Teacher of the Year from Williston Elementary School in Williston, FL.

Rebecca is best described as a hard-working educator who has demonstrated capabilities in curriculum and instruction, data analysis, and assessment. She is committed to improving the quality of instruction and assessment through ongoing professional development and reflective teaching practices.

She serves on the district math and science cadres and facilitates the creation of standards-based curriculum maps and district common assessments. She develops classroom assessments to monitor student learning and provide quality, standards-based instruction to fourth grade students. Becky has also mentored both new teachers and interns at her school.

Rebecca graduated from Saint Leo University with a bachelor of arts in elementary education and graduated from Florida State University with a master of science in educational leadership. She previously was a reading coach, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade teacher at Joyce Bullock Elementary School. Since 2015, she has been a fourth grade teacher at Williston Elementary School.

I express my sincere gratitude to Rebecca for her dedication to her students throughout the years. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK FARLEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Patrick Farley, the Martin County Teacher of the Year from Crystal Lake Elementary School in Stuart, FL.

Patrick received this important recognition as his priorities as an educator are to deepen his student's leadership skills and independence while continuing to inspire and create communities within the classroom. He has the ability to motivate his students and is able to teach them how to problem solve with the resources and people around them.

Beyond his classroom, he chairs the schoolwide positive behavior interventions and supports initiative at Crystal Lake, serves as a coach for the robotics

team, track team, and as coach and co-founder of the running club. He is also the girls basketball head coach at Anderson Middle School and is an active member of Covenant Fellowship Baptist Church.

According to his peers, their entire community is fortunate to have teachers like Patrick, who is dedicated to improving the lives of young people. They view him as an exceptional educator who exemplifies what it takes to make a true difference in the classroom.

Patrick is a fifth grade teacher at Crystal Lake Elementary and has 4 years of teaching experience, all within the Martin County School District.

I express my best wishes to Patrick for his commitment to educating his students. I look forward to hearing of his continued success in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO AMY GRIMM

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Amy Grimm, the St. Johns County Teacher of the Year from Julington Creek Elementary School in St. Johns, FL.

Amy was named Teacher of the Year for the second time, previously winning the award in the 2002–2003 school year. She enjoys teaching first grade students because of the wonder and joy they experience. She always says first grade is a magical year.

According to Amy, first graders are excited about learning. She saw much growth in her students this year as they became readers. They come to her classroom dependent and blossom into confident learners by the end of the year.

Amy is a mentor to other teachers and believes in developing and supporting the whole child and takes a thematic approach in her classroom. It is not uncommon for her to also be seen at her students' extracurricular activities supporting and cheering them on.

Amy graduated from Frostburg State University in Maryland with a bachelor's degree in early childhood and elementary education. She has 22 years of teaching experience, all within the St. Johns County School District. She began her teaching career with the school district in 1995 at Ketterlinus Elementary School as a first grade/title I teacher. She has been with Julington Creek Elementary School since 1998 and is working toward her gifted endorsement.

I offer my best wishes to Amy for her tireless work and dedication to her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMANTHA LAMORA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Samantha Lamora, the St. Lucie County Teacher of the Year from Savanna Ridge Elementary School in Port St. Lucie, FL.

Samantha received the Teacher of the Year award for her student's superior performance, her teaching routines, and outstanding classroom practices. Inspired by her students' desire to learn, grow, and celebrate their own successes, Samantha values collaboration and looks for opportunities to extend that beyond the classroom by establishing solid partnerships between home and school. At the start of each year, she writes to the parents of her students a letter detailing her educational philosophy, expectation of success for her students, and pledge to partner with them in their child's academic journey to guarantee achievement.

Her classroom is open to parents on a number of occasions each year in order to celebrate the accomplishments of their children. In the spirit of working collaboratively with her colleagues, Samantha also helps to produce a weekly newsletter to streamline communication. She also is an active member of the school's positive behavior intervention success, parent-teacher organization, and literacy committees that help to plan events after school in an effort to bridge the gap between home and school. She is always seeking to make a positive difference for her students.

Samantha is a first grade teacher at Savanna Ridge Elementary School with 5 years of teaching experience. Stepping into the role of a teacher is an answer to a lifetime career calling she deems magical.

I express my best wishes to Samantha for her commitment and dedication to her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR MASSEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Taylor Massey, the Hendry County Teacher of the Year from Eastside Elementary School in Clewiston, FL.

Taylor's teaching philosophy centers around what she describes as not settling for mediocrity and fostering great citizenship and leadership with her students. Her favorite part about teaching is giving her students a voice and watching their minds grow.

She is the adviser to the county's only National Elementary Honor Society chapter and adviser to the STEP club. Taylor is also part of the new teacher induction team to welcome new teachers to the district. She strives to be a positive role model for her students and loves having close connections with her students' parents.

She is a product of the Hendry County school system, having attended Eastside Elementary School, Clewiston Middle School, and Clewiston High School. She now teaches alongside some of the teachers who taught her in elementary school.

Taylor is a fourth grade teacher, and this is her fifth year teaching in the

district, having previously taught kindergarten, second grade, and sixth grade. She attended Florida Atlantic University while working as a resident assistant and volunteered with the YMCA. Taylor graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology and received her master of education degree from the University of West Florida. She plans to become an administrator in the future.

I extend my best wishes to Taylor and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO CHASEY NIEBRUGGE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Chasey Niebrugge, the Lee County Teacher of the Year from River Hall Elementary School in Alva, FL.

Chasey was named Teacher of the Year because she encompasses all the components of a model teacher. Described as talented, innovative, and committed to expanding learning beyond the classroom, she changed the intensive intervention/exceptional student education program at her school from a program that lacked resources and true inclusion practices to a program that is thriving. Students who were struggling are now flourishing.

Her I/ESE students are a huge part of the school's family and are included in all activities they are able to attend. She creates an engaging, differentiated, and safe classroom environment where her students are expected to do their personal best. Chasey believes that continuing her own learning outside of her classroom is extremely important and a large part of her success as a teacher.

Chasey feels that every single day is a new opportunity for a child to learn. As an educator, she believes it is her responsibility to provide the best learning experience for her students. She has always wanted to teach, believing this to be her passion and that she is meant to be with her students.

Chasey is a graduate from Estero High School and is a former basketball and softball athlete. She is the intensive intervention/exceptional student education teacher at River Hall Elementary School.

I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Chasey and offer my best wishes on her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH NORTH

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Kenneth North, the Union County Teacher of the Year from Union County High School in Lake Butler, FL.

Kenneth is more than a teacher; he is a mentor for today's youth to be tomorrow's successful and productive citizens. He does this by providing opportunities for them through competitions, community service, social functions, and daily activities.

In many instances, he sets up practical exercises for his students to work

through by coming up with solutions to problems that work best for them. According to Kenneth, this teaches students the principle of taking ownership of problems and giving the solutions that can be applied throughout life.

Kenneth is a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps instructor with more than 23 years of life experiences around the world. He has been a JROTC instructor with Union County since 2012.

I extend my appreciation to Kenneth for his hard work and congratulate him on this achievement. I wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER POWELL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jennifer Powell, the Leon County Teacher of the Year from Lawton Chiles High School in Tallahassee, FL.

Jennifer received this important recognition because of her innovative lesson plans and tireless work on behalf of her students. Her colleagues consider her an asset to both her students and the school.

After she was named Teacher of the Year, Jennifer's students gave her a standing ovation in their classroom. Jennifer said she loves her students and notes they come to her class every day, prepared to meet any of the challenges she gives them.

Jennifer believes in hard work and thinks that being part of a team is important. Relationships are very important to Jennifer; they are her philosophy for education. If she can form relationships with the students, parents, and the school's administration, she believes anything can happen in and outside of the classroom.

Jennifer has been teaching social studies for the past 11 years. Her first 9 years were spent as a civics teacher at Deerlake Middle School and the past 2 years have been at Lawton Chiles High School. She is a three-time graduate of Florida State University with a bachelor's and master's degree in social science education/curriculum and instruction and a specialist's degree in educational leadership.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jennifer for all her hard work and dedication she has given to her students. I wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SARAH RAY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Sarah Ray, the Palm Beach County Teacher of the Year from the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, FL.

Sarah professes that everything she does is for her students, and this award is entirely about them. Sarah wants to make sure to help all of her students continue in their educational careers.

Sarah took over the Artists Reaching to Society Club at the school after the passing of its founder. Under her direction, the club organizes an annual arts

camp for elementary school students. The camp has grown to include 250 student volunteers and 125 students each summer.

A Google Certified Teacher and District Trailblazer Teacher, Sarah has successfully integrated technology into her classroom. This has helped excite her students about learning while also providing the technological ability to monitor their progress.

Sarah graduated from Dreyfoos School of the Arts in 2000 and earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Florida with a major in history and a minor in education. She completed masters-level coursework at Florida Atlantic University. She began teaching at Dreyfoos in 2014 and has served as the school advisory committee chair, senior class adviser, student council adviser, and schoolwide positive behavior.

I extend my best wishes to Sarah and look forward to learning of her continued successes.●

TRIBUTE TO CARLA ROSS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Carla Ross, the Escambia County Teacher of the Year from Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, FL.

Carla was recognized for bringing enthusiasm into the classroom every day. She has a different style of teaching, with her classroom being more of a hands-on experience, which her students find to be more enjoyable and have excelled in this learning environment.

Carla is an instructor for the marketing and entrepreneurship academy at Booker T. Washington High School. She became a teacher after moving to Pensacola and has been with Escambia County schools for 35 years.

She never envisioned herself becoming a teacher, having hated school when she was in high school and college. Carla fell in love with this career after working with her students and brought her passion for the business world into the schoolhouse.

She immerses her students into the real world of work, teaching every aspect of running a business, production, advertising, sales, and distribution. This provides nonstop activity for her students to stay on task. They know their work is done under the watchful eye of someone they see as more than a teacher.

I extend my best wishes to Carla for all the hard work she has done for her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER WINGATE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jennifer Wingate, the Gilchrist County Teacher of the Year from Trenton High School in Trenton, FL.

In only her second year of teaching in the public school system, Jennifer